

*\*To receive the Daily News Digest in your inbox, email [R6Press@epa.gov](mailto:R6Press@epa.gov).*

## 1 — Main Street project in LR complete, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, 9/15/2015

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/sep/15/main-street-project-in-lr-complete-2015/>

The water quality project that turned Little Rock's Main Street into a construction zone is wrapping up a year and a half later at a cost higher than originally anticipated.

## 2 — \$52 million in restoration, river projects to be discussed Tuesday, New Orleans Times-Picayune, 9/14/2015

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/52\\_million\\_in\\_restoration\\_proj.html#incart\\_river](http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/09/52_million_in_restoration_proj.html#incart_river)

Six coastal and wetland restoration projects and a study of the lower Mississippi River are in line to receive \$52 million from federal Clean Water Act fines paid by Transocean, the owner of the Deepwater Horizon drillship that exploded during the BP oil spill disaster in 2010.

## 3 — Nineteen House members introduce resolution to impeach EPA chief, Dallas Morning News, 9/14/2015

<http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2015/09/nineteen-house-members-introduce-resolution-to-impeach-epa-chief.html/>

Six House members from Texas and a scattering of colleagues from 12 other states have co-sponsored articles of impeachment against EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

## 4 — McCarthy to be called on the carpet over mine waste spill, Politico, 9/14/15

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-energy/2015/09/20150913-pro-morning-energy-mccarthy-210184>

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will probably see lawmakers in her sleep by the time this week is over. Four separate Congressional committees have summoned her to the woodshed to explain her agency's role in the Gold King Mine spill that dumped 3 million gallons of mine waste into the Animus River.

## 5 — City to charge biofuel firm \$10K for grease cleanup, Santa Fe New Mexican, 9/15/2015

[http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/city-to-charge-biofuel-firm-k-for-grease-cleanup/article\\_8f6c7dbe-7845-5d70-ab4d-b7d95a4d40b0.html](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/city-to-charge-biofuel-firm-k-for-grease-cleanup/article_8f6c7dbe-7845-5d70-ab4d-b7d95a4d40b0.html)

Valley Proteins, a company that collects grease and other food waste for restaurants and supermarkets, will have to reimburse the city at least \$10,000 for cleanup costs because one of its employees spilled used cooking oil in the Santa Fe River, a Santa Fe official said Monday.

## 6 — Why activists are pushing a 'supply side' strategy for fighting climate change, Washington Post, 9/14/2015

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/09/14/green-groups-ask-obama-to-curb-new-federal-fossil-fuel-leases/>

Even as President Obama further amplifies his rhetoric about addressing climate change, a coalition of environmental organizations released a letter Monday seeking to push his administration much further still.

## 7 — Thousands of Abandoned Mines on U.S. Lands Are an Environmental Time Bomb, Fiscal Times, 9/15/2015

<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/09/15/Thousands-Abandoned-Mines-US-Lands-Are-Environmental-Time-Bomb>

The nation was horrified last month by a Colorado mine spill that sent a torrent of three million gallons of toxic, yellow sludge into the Animas River. The noxious materials traveled hundreds of miles downstream through Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

## 8 — Rebuttal: The case for EPA's proposed methane regulations is just common sense (opinion), The Hill, 9/14/2015

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/253422-rebuttal-the-case-for-epas-proposed-methane>

On the Congress blog last week, Katie Brown argued against the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed new rules to reduce the 7 million tons of methane emissions released by the oil and gas industry each year. Those companies could easily be rallying around solutions to a problem they've already agreed is manageable. But instead, Brown repeats flawed, misleading and all-too-common talking points that minimize the problem.

**9 — Governor To Announce New Energy Plan, KUNM, 9/15/2015**

<http://kunm.org/post/governor-announce-new-energy-plan-unm-exhibit-highlights-police-brutality#stream/0>

Gov. Susana Martinez is expected to unveil a new energy policy as industry experts gather in southeastern New Mexico for an annual summit. The governor's office says the new policy will call for an all-of-the-above approach, not unlike the prescription being pushed at the federal level.

**10 — Tangipahoa Council told they will get to review remediation proposal of shredded tires at next meeting, Baton Rouge Advocate, 9/14/2015**

<http://theadvocate.com/news/13449022-123/tangipahoa-council-told-they-will>

The Tangipahoa Parish Council learned Monday that it should be able to review at its Sept. 28 meeting a remediation plan to correct a state complaint about the misuse and excessive storage of shredded tire material at the parish landfill near Independence.

**11 — Chemical plant on shutdown after leak, Houston Chronicle, 9/14/2015**

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Chemical-plant-on-shutdown-after-leak-6503742.php>

The Flint Hills chemical plant in southeastern Houston is in the process of a controlled shutdown while crews work to repair a leak, a company spokesperson said.



Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 8:44 a.m.

**\$749**

**36 Month Lease**  
**CASE**  
CONSTRUCTION **Backhoe**

22 LOCATIONS IN TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO

Trace Adkins

**TOP PICKS**

Capture Arkansas:  
Upload photos and  
vote for your favorites  
in the Capture Arkansas  
contest.

Home / News /

## Main Street project in LR complete

Cost tops \$2M for 5-block area

By Chelsea Booser   
This article was published today at 5:00 a.m.



PHOTO BY BENJAMIN KRAIN  
Passers-by are reflected in the windows along the Main Street Creative Corridor during an event Monday that marked the completion of the Little Rock project's first phase.



Visitors tour the new theater space for The Rep, as well as other features of Little Rock's Main Street Creative Corridor on Monday.

Comments

Font Size

The water quality project that turned Little Rock's Main Street into a construction zone is wrapping up a year and a half later at a cost higher than originally anticipated.

Officials billed the water runoff project and street redesign, which began in March 2014, as a months-long \$1.6 million job. Some unplanned costs have been incurred and now the construction alone will be about \$2 million. Engineering, design and signs add another \$271,500 to the cost.

That amount is still within the authorized project budget approved by the Little Rock Board of Directors.

"We always try to get a contingency allocated when we do this kind of work," said Mike Hood, the city's civil engineering manager. "You never know what's going to happen. We're digging in unknown places. It's just the facts of life. The board authorized \$1.99 million [for construction], and that included the contingency. Eighty percent of that was the bid amount and we spent all the contingency money allocated to the project."

Most of the work took place along the 500 block of Main Street, though the project included the

ADVERTISEMENT

Stay open  
24/7 with  
Google  
AdWords.

Get Going Today

ADVERTISEMENT

### MOST POPULAR

Viewed Commented

Sports

Escaped murder suspect captured in Bryant - AO Mobile

Resting places of victims in 1857 massacre found - AO Mobile

Escaped murder suspect captured in Bryant

Hogs dazed, undeterred by loss - AO Mobile

Today's Newspaper

### SHOPPING

100, 200 and 300 blocks, as well. The 500 block has been closed to vehicular traffic in the morning and afternoon for 10 months. It officially reopened full time Monday evening, marking the finish of the construction project.

Drivers will notice that there's no striping on that block of the street. It's meant as an encouragement for vehicles to slow down and interact more with pedestrians.

Walkers will notice improved sidewalks, thousands of plants, several trees and new metal bridges that allow people to walk over a garden planted underneath. All of the added vegetation serves as a natural way to treat water runoff before it reaches the Arkansas River.

In all, from the 100 block to the 500 block, there are 2,865 plants, 55 small trees or bushes, and 44 big trees added. Another 500 plants are ordered and scheduled to be planted by the end of the month.

The low-impact development technique of treating water runoff is a method that is gaining ground across the country. This is the first project of its kind in central Arkansas. The project is part of Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola's effort to revive Main Street as a Creative Corridor.

"When we started this, everybody said this was an unreasonable task. ... The challenge was turning Main Street into a 24/7 live, work, play environment," said Stephen Luoni, director of the University of Arkansas Community Design Center that designed the project.

The city hosted an opening event Monday where Luoni and others spoke about the project before a tour of the street.

Luoni explained that the landscape of the sidewalk areas are meant to "act like rooms." He suggested putting furniture outside for people to congregate.

Along the 200 block of the street, workers replaced asphalt with porous pavement that allows excess storm water to flow through it.

"The sidewalk zone becomes a real liveable zone," Luoni said.

Unexpected underground conditions account for some of the contingency money that had to be used. Added plants and street lights make up the rest of it. That's normal for a project of this size, Hood said.

A federal Environmental Protection Agency grant paid for \$900,000 of the project. The remaining city funds are a mix of sales tax revenue, money from a 2013 street and drainage bond and a small amount from the city's general fund.

Stodola touted at Monday's event that more than \$100 million in private development has come to the area since the public investment along the street.

The city hasn't tracked that number itself. Private developers have reported how much they anticipate to spend in their development projects along the corridor.

Those developments include office building renovations, new restaurants and apartment buildings, the Arkansas Repertory Theatre renovation, the relocation of the Urban Montessori School and the coming Little Rock Technology Park.

A list started by local developer Rett Tucker and updated by other private developers shows that as of September, more than \$112 million in private development is planned between the 100 and 800 blocks of Main Street.

That total doesn't include a \$22 million commitment of tax revenue to the tech park that will be located at the corner of Capitol Avenue and Main Street.

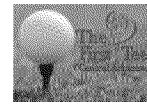
Ron Curry, administrator for EPA Region 6 that includes Arkansas, said that of all the cities he's visited within the five-state region, Little Rock is "truly unique" and demonstrates what can come of a community's public and private sectors working together.

"These things don't get built with public money," Stodola said. "They get built with the interest and energy of the private sector."

In addition to the lights already added along the street, Stodola said it's his plan to use grants from private foundations to add a marquee that will make Main Street resemble a miniature Times Square.

The marquee would advertise productions coming at the different venues in the area. Stodola cautioned that the city doesn't know yet if it has the funds for that project, though it has acquired some grant money.

## Arkansas Daily Deal



\$29 for 18-Hole Round of Golf for Two People with Cart Rental (\$66 value)  
Up to \$29 off  
See more Deals

## Real Estate



Little rock; 4,622 sq/ft (4 BD, 4.1 BA) \$449,000; Michelle Sanders - Chenal Properties, Inc.  
Search 17,894 homes

## Autos



2012 Honda Pilot  
\$28,918; 45801 miles  
Russell Honda  
Search 751 vehicles

## FEATURED JOBS

COVENANT KEEPERS

09.09.15 | Little Rock, AR

Project Manager

REDSTONE CONSTRUCTION GROUP

09.08.15 | Little Rock, AR

Arts & Culture Program Officer

WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

09.08.15 | Bentonville, AR

## Calendar

(<http://arkansasonline.com/eventcaler>)

### 2nd Annual El Dorado Film Festival

South Arkansas Art... | El Dorado, AR

THU  
17

(<http://arkansasonline.com/eventcaler>)  
ANNUAL-EL-DORADO-FILM-FESTIVAL/1690296/2015-09-17T09

### Developed and Less Finished

Wildwood Park for ... | Little Rock, AR

TUE  
15

(<http://arkansasonline.com/eventcaler>)  
AND-LESS-FINISHED/1690291/2015-09-15T00

### Trivia Bowl

The Flying Saucer | Little Rock, AR

TUE  
15

(<http://arkansasonline.com/eventcaler>)  
BOWL/1556980/2015-09-15T20



DIGITALMARKETING

Search Local Businesses

- Central Arkansas Auto Sales
- Central Arkansas Banking
- Central Arkansas Beauty Care
- Central Arkansas Dentists
- Central Arkansas Florists
- Central Arkansas Insurance
- Central Arkansas Lawyers
- Central Arkansas Movers
- Central Arkansas Physicians
- Central Arkansas Restaurants
- Central Arkansas Real Estate

Overall, the Main Street project has done a good job of integrating vehicle traffic, parking and pedestrian uses of a roadway, Stodola said. It's a transformed way of thinking compared to how Main Street was used in the 1980s, he said.

"It's changed from back in the '80s when we had a bad experience with the Main Street Mall that was blocked off completely. We learned that's not what you want to do -- take away traffic completely," Stodola said.

"I truly hope [what is completed now] is a first phase of a bigger project," he added. "I'm truly passionate about this."

A Section on 09/15/2015

Print Headline: Main Street project in LR complete

Tweet 4 G+ 0

Like Share 2 people like this.

ADVERTISEMENT

Prices good through 9/15.

SHOP KOHLS.COM

SHOP NOW

### More News

- Prisoner's lost Reeboks his own fault, legisL...
- Murder suspect recaptured
- Four killed, four hurt in weekend accidents a...
- Phantom to visit revived Robinson Center in '...
- Main Street project in LR complete**
- School districts seek new charter schools
- Philander student robbed at campus
- Robber gets in via drive-thru window
- Police seek man in hotel stabbing

More News stories >

### You May Like

Sponsored Links by Taboola

**Are You Ignoring This \$15k Social Security Bonus?**  
The Motley Fool

**Her Dress Dropped Jaws At The 2015 Met Gala**  
StyleBistro

**State-By-State, The Richest People In America**  
Forbes

**Haircut Inspiration: 350+ Gorgeous Short Hairstyles**  
SheKnows

### We Recommend

by Taboola

**Authorities: Youth jumps off I-430 bridge**

**Unsold tickets a sign of marginalized fans**

**Police talk man off LR bridge**

**Football writers group shuts out Razorbacks**



Everything New Orleans

## \$52 million in restoration, river projects to be discussed Tuesday

**Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune** By **Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune**

**Email the author | Follow on Twitter**

on September 14, 2015 at 1:30 PM, updated September 14, 2015 at 1:31 PM

Six coastal and wetland restoration projects and a study of the lower Mississippi River **are in line to receive** \$52 million from federal Clean Water Act fines paid by **Transocean**, the owner of the Deepwater Horizon drillship that exploded during the **BP oil spill disaster in 2010**.

The **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council** will hold two public hearings on the seven proposed projects, to discuss them and receive public feedback.

The first hearing is set for Tuesday (Sept. 15) in the University of New Orleans' Homer Hitt Alumni Center, **2000 Lakeshore Dr.** An open house starts 5:30 p.m., followed by the formal meeting at 6 p.m.

The second hearing is in Morgan City on Wednesday (Sept. 16). It's in the Morgan City Municipal Auditorium, **728 Myrtle St.**, with the doors opening at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting starting 6 p.m.

The Louisiana projects include:

- \$14.2 million for planning and design of a freshwater diversion from the Mississippi River into Maurepas Swamp.
- \$9.3 million for continuation of a long-term study of how best to manage water and sediment resources of the lower Mississippi.
- \$8.7 million for filling in old oil exploration canals located in the Barataria Unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.
- \$7.3 million for construction of a beach, dune and back marsh restoration project on West Grand Terre Island.
- \$5.2 million for planning and design of a ridge and marsh restoration along Bayou Dularge in Terrebonne Parish.
- \$4.3 million for planning and design for the restoration of the Golden Triangle wetlands adjacent to the new Lake Borgne surge barrier.
- \$3.2 million for planning and design of a "living shoreline" of oyster reefs along the southern edge of the Biloxi Marshes.

As required by the federal **Restore Act**, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council oversees the trust fund of Clear Water Act fines. The 10-member council is made up of five federal agency designees, and one

designee from each of the five Gulf Coast states.

The seven proposed Louisiana projects would be paid for through the Restore Act's share of a \$1 billion Clean Water Act fine **that Transocean agreed to pay** in a 2013 settlement of civil and criminal charges stemming from the blowout.

Most of the seven projects would just be planning and design projects, and Justin Ehrenwerth, executive director of the council, made clear last month that just because the council has suggested they receive planning funds does not guarantee they will receive implementation funds in the future.

In terms of the seven Louisiana projects, five of them are called for in the state's Master Plan for coastal restoration and protection. The other two projects were proposed by federal council members and directly benefit coastal Louisiana.

Each of them will be directed by either Louisiana, Louisiana and the Army Corps of Engineers, or by one of the federal agencies that are members of the council.

The draft for public review **here** and the public can comment on it through Sept. 28, 2015, either in person at the hearings; online **here**; by mail to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, Attention: Draft FPL Comments, Hale Boggs Federal Building, 500 Poydras Street, Suite 1117, New Orleans, LA 70130; or by email to **draftfplcomments@restorethegulf.gov**.

The \$14.9 million Maurepas Swamp project would be built near Garyville in St. John the Baptist Parish. It would develop construction-ready plans and an adaptive management plan for a diversion designed to deliver up to 2,000 cubic feet per second of river water to the swamp to reduce salinity levels and promote regrowth of bald cypress and tupelo.

The \$9.3 million river management study would continue a Corps and state study to develop a science-based management strategy for how to remove sediment from the river through diversions without hurting navigation.

The six-month canal backfilling project, to be conducted by the Department of the Interior, calls for the \$8.73 million to be spent to reclaim 16.5 miles of old exploration and production canals in the Jean Lafitte Park's Barataria Unit, with the hope that the wetland restoration efforts would help protect nearby hurricane levees built after Hurricane Katrina. The spoil berms along the canals would be degraded and open water areas would be partially filled with soil and vegetative material.

The proposed West Grand Terre beach nourishment project is similar to a series of barrier island restoration projects undertaken by the state and the Corps, and would include \$7.26 million for the planning needed to restore 12,700 feet of dune and beach covering 235 acres, another 66 acres of back-barrier marsh and a rock revetment.

The \$5.2 million Bayou Dularge project would pay for engineering and design work, and would be developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service on behalf of the federally recognized Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. The council study outlining the projects hinted that it might fit into a project proposed to reintroduce Atchafalaya River water into the Bayou Penchant basin in Terrebonne Parish.

The Golden Triangle wetlands project would use \$4.4 million to complete planning for restoration of about 600 acres of marsh in the area surrounding the new Lake Borgne surge barrier on the lake's northwestern corner.

The \$3.2 million Biloxi Marshes living shoreline project would pay for engineering and design necessary to produce construction-ready plans and an adaptive management plan for oyster reefs. The reefs would act as a breakwater along the southern edge of the Biloxi Marshes off the shoreline of Eloi Bay and Eloi Point near the mouth of Bayou la Loutre in St. Bernard Parish.

In the council's announcement last month describing its draft funding priority list, it recommended spending \$137 million of the \$241 million available in the council bucket from Transocean fines on Gulf Coast restoration projects and on projects aimed at natural resources. The rest of the money recommended for projects last month would go to:

- Gulf-wide projects - \$21.2 million
- Mississippi - \$20.7 million
- Florida - \$16.1 million
- Texas - \$13.4 million
- Alabama \$12.7 million

The council is expected to reserve another \$43.6 million of the Transocean money for future projects, subject to further council review, and then the state also plans to keep \$40 million to fund council operations through 2023. A remaining \$18.2 million is expected to be held in reserve for contingencies.

*NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune reporter **Mark Schleifstein** contributed to this report.*

© 2015 NOLA.com. All rights reserved.





72°

Tuesday, Sep

# The Dallas Morning News

Subscribe ▼

Sign In

[Home](#) [News](#) [Business](#) [Sports](#) [Entertainment](#) [Arts & Life](#) [Opinion](#)
[Communities](#) [Crime](#) [Education](#) [Investigations](#) [State](#)


Search


[News](#) ▶ [Politics](#) ▶ [Trail Blazers Blog](#)

## Trail Blazers Blog

### Nineteen House members introduce resolution to impeach EPA chief



Michael A. Lindenberger/Washington Correspondent



Published: September 14, 2015 2:03 pm



Share



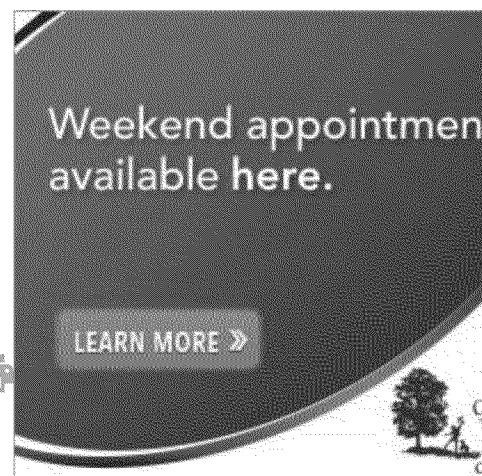
Tweet



Email

87

Comment

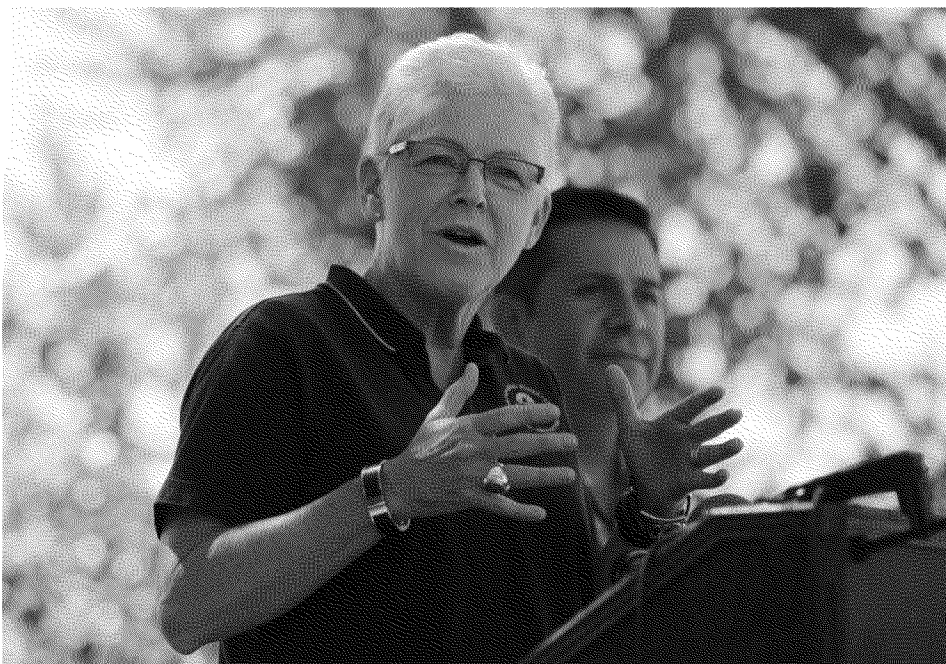


## Archives

 ▼

## About this Blog

The blog for the Dallas



EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy has pushed her agency to impose caps on carbon emissions from power plants and a range of other tough environmental stances.

WASHINGTON—Six House members from Texas and a scattering of colleagues from 12 other states have co-sponsored articles of impeachment against EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy.

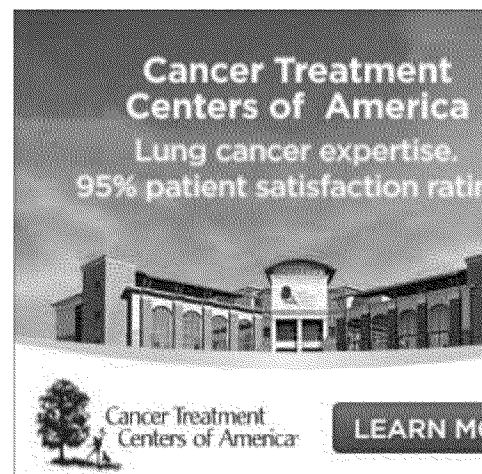
The resolution accuses McCarthy of perjury and making false statements before the House Committee on Science, Space

### Related

**Lamar Smith bashes 'discredited' EPA at climate change skeptic conference**

**House Republicans scrap climate change preparedness**

Morning News politics team tracks Dallas Fort Worth area, Texas and national campaigns.



### Video

### Politics Stories



**Donald Trump regales Dallas crowd with chest-thumping, promise of 'wins'**



**Catching up on Trump: Your primer for Donald's trip to Dallas**



**Donald Trump promises to rally, rile at American Airlines Center event**

and Technology.

proposal

McCarthy has presided over the EPA during a period of aggressive expansion of its work imposing limits on pollutants in the air and water, including carbon emissions linked to climate change.

The resolution likely will be meaningless unless it attracts enough support from enough other GOP lawmakers to get a hearing in a committee and then enough votes to get to the House floor. The list of 19 co-sponsors does not include Rep. Lamar Smith, R-San Antonio, chairman of the Science committee.

Al Gore: 2015 Paris conference will spur global climate change policies

Dallas Democrat wants state to get serious about climate change

Rep. Joe Barton to heat up Copenhagen climate change summit

EPA pushes aggressive agenda despite heated objections from House Republicans

## Categories

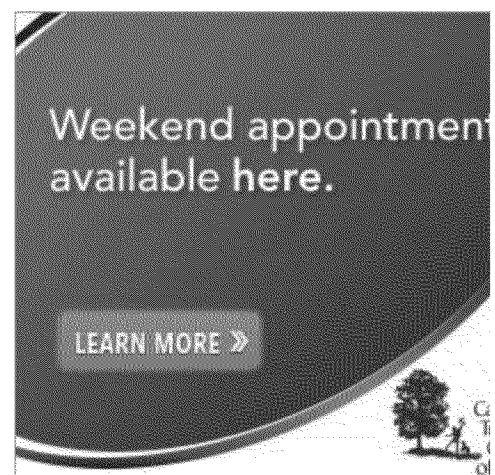
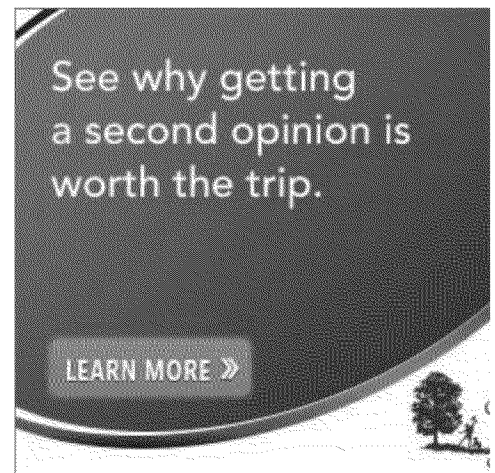
Select Category

## Mobile

Get dallasnews.com on your mobile device

## Newsletters

Subscribe to a variety of newsletters



The full text of the resolution is here.

The six Texans who co-sponsored the resolution are Rep. Brian Babin, Rep. Michael Burgess, Rep. Louie Gohmert, Rep. Sam Johnson, Rep. John Ratcliffe and Rep. Randy Weber.



Follow this story

### Similar Stories on dallasnews.com



Nineteen House members introduce resolution to impeach EPA chief



Planes to face EPA emission rules



EPA to take look at aircraft emissions



Methane emissions underestimated by EPA, study says



Timing not ideal, but Mavs draft picks Anderson, Singh have introductory news conference



As DeAndre Jordan derby escalates, Mavericks introduce draft picks to the world

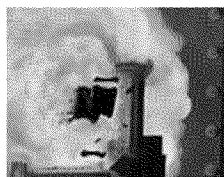
Powered by

### Promoted Stories From The Web



Rare Never Seen WW2 Photos

Auto Overload



The US Navy Is Developing Electrically

The Economist



Sarah Palin Dropped by Fox News - Again

People



RANKED: The 35 Least Effective

InsideGov

Recommended by

# POLITICO

POLITICO

## Morning Energy

The one-stop source for energy and environment news

---

### McCarthy to be called on the carpet over mine waste spill

By **ERIC WOLFF** | 09/14/15, 10:01 AM EDT

*With help from Darius Dixon*

#### **THE WEEK AHEAD IN CONGRESS: LEGISLATORS WANT EPA'S**

**MCCARTHY TO SPILL ON SPILL:** EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will probably see lawmakers in her sleep by the time this week is over. Four separate Congressional committees have summoned her to the woodshed to explain her agency's role in the Gold King Mine spill that dumped 3 million gallons of mine waste into the Animus River.

**Senate:** Wednesday is Animas River Spill Day in the Senate! Get your bottles of Arsenic Water at the door! McCarthy has Senate committees in both the morning and the afternoon. She will start her day with the Committee on Environment and Public Works and then end with the Committee on Indian Affairs. In addition to the mine inquiries, the Senate Commerce Committee on Thursday will discuss pipeline safety at a field hearing in Billings, Mont. where federal pipeline safety chief Marie Therese Dominguez will testify. ME has never been to Billings, but Trip Advisor appears to recommend that the senators and Dominguez visit local pub Uberbrew for the schnitzel and beer. If Dominguez and Senate Republicans can't mend fences over schnitzel, then politics truly are broken.

**House:** House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy will head to Texas tomorrow to

preview the GOP's fall energy agenda in a speech to the Greater Houston Partnership in Houston, a local business partnership that tries to improve life in the country's main oil hub. Also on Tuesday, the Committee on Natural Resources will host a field hearing in New Orleans on the effects of federal energy policy on the Gulf Coast. Sens. David Vitter and Bill Cassidy will testify at the hearing. EPA Administrator McCarthy on Thursday will reprise her starring role in the Senate from a day before when she discusses her agency's response to the Animas river spill to a joint hearing before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Natural Resources. Joint hearings apparently get to summon twice as many officials, as McCarthy will have to share billing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

**IT WILL BE A MAGICAL MONDAY!** I'm your host, Eric Wolff, and I think we finally broke with summer this weekend. A nice crisp tinge in the air, always a good sign of weather to come. Bitter about the oncoming autumn and winter? Let me know it, and send your energy tips, quips, and comments to [ewolff@politico.com](mailto:ewolff@politico.com), or follow us on Twitter [@ericwolff](https://twitter.com/ericwolff), [@Morning\\_Energy](https://twitter.com/Morning_Energy), and [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro).

**DOE TO PULL PLUG ON OHIO URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROJECT:** After years of complex arrangements, last-minute funding drama, congressional advocacy—including letters signed by the likes of Speaker John Boehner—and, lest we forget, a mountain of cash, the Energy Department is walking away from Centrus Energy's American Centrifuge Project. Just after 7 p.m. Friday, the company announced that DOE would extend a contract for further research on the uranium centrifuges originally destined for the Ohio plant, but discontinue funds used to keep ACP going. The new contract supporting the research, which has taken place at Oak Ridge national lab in Tenn., will be funded to tune of \$35 million, a 60 percent overall cut, but runs through Sept. 30, 2016, with the possibility of extension. According to the Portsmouth Daily Times, about 235 WARN Act notices were sent to company employees in Piketon, Ohio (<http://bit.ly/1ilZt9j>). Centrus: <http://bit.ly/1F4MEdr>

**So long loan guarantee?** DOE's retreat from the project further undermines the company's on-again off-again efforts to secure a \$2 billion federal loan guarantee intended to back ACP, which the company started building in 2007 and has sunk about \$2 billion into. Prepare yourself for chatter about President Barack Obama

# City to charge biofuel firm \$10K for grease cleanup

By Uriel J. Garcia

The New Mexican | Posted: Monday, September 14, 2015 7:00 pm

Valley Proteins, a company that collects grease and other food waste for restaurants and supermarkets, will have to reimburse the city at least \$10,000 for cleanup costs because one of its employees spilled used cooking oil in the Santa Fe River, a Santa Fe official said Monday.

Dave Pike of the city's Streets and Drainage Maintenance Division said the city so far has spent that much, and its costs could double to \$20,000.

Expenses so far don't include work such as water sampling during the cleanup, he said.

Pike couldn't say how long it will take to complete the work.

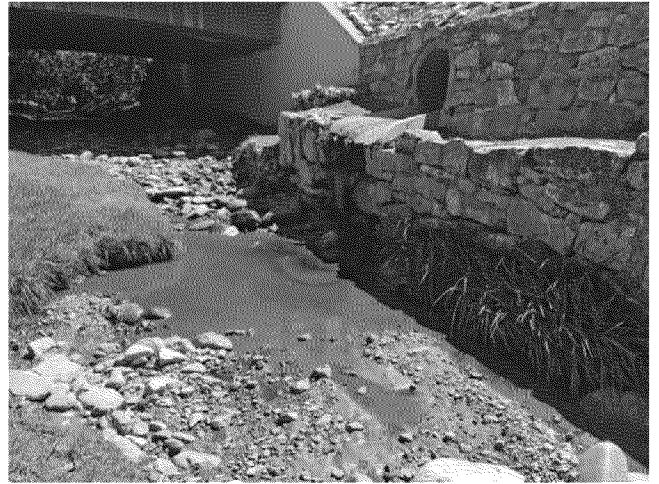
An employee with Virginia-based Valley Proteins said on Monday no one was available to comment. But Pike said he has spoken with the company's staff, and "they have stepped up and taken full responsibility for what happened." Valley Proteins has an office in Bernalillo.

Robert Wood, a city water conservation specialist, said Monday he was in the process of notifying the New Mexico Environment Department of Saturday's spill. A spokeswoman with the department couldn't immediately say if Valley Proteins will face additional state fines.

Tim Eckre, co-owner of Santa Fe Bite on Old Santa Fe Trail, said Valley Proteins picks up the restaurant's grease and food waste about once a month. But this time, he said, the crew dropped a barrel of used canola oil. The accident happened around 5 a.m., he said.

On Saturday afternoon, the thick, orange oil remained pooled in the riverbed near the bridge at East Alameda Street and Old Santa Fe Trail. The small pool was contained, but Wood said he was concerned that the waste could wash farther downstream if the river began flowing more rapidly because of rainstorms in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

Wood said Valley Proteins should have sopped up the spilled waste, but workers instead used a hose



## City to charge biofuels firm \$10K for grease cleanup

Used cooking oil pools Saturday in the Santa Fe River. Valley Proteins will have to reimburse the city at least \$10,000 for cleanup costs because one of its employees washed the waste into the river, a Santa Fe official says. Chris Quintana/The New Mexican

to wash the oil into a nearby storm drain. That drain empties into the riverbed.

Canola oil isn't toxic and isn't flammable unless it's highly concentrated, Wood said. Still, he didn't want it traveling downstream.

According to its website, Valley Proteins recycles food waste and cooking oils at sites nationwide for use as animal feed and fuels. This helps in an effort to prevent environmental contamination and eases the burden on landfills, the site states.

*Contact Uriel Garcia at 986-3062 or [ugarcia@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:ugarcia@sfnewmexican.com). Follow him on Twitter @ujohnnyg.*



# Strategy for fighting climate change

The Washington Post

Even as President Obama further amplifies his rhetoric about addressing climate change, a coalition of environmental organizations released a letter Monday seeking to push his administration much further still. Not content with recently announced curbs on emissions from fossil fuel fired power plants, the groups want the president to use his authority to stop new leases for the development of fossil fuels in public lands and waters — a dramatic change in policy that would not only affect major companies but could also decrease future federal revenue collected from these leases.

“Here at home, the longstanding U.S. policy of leasing federal public lands and oceans to corporations for coal, oil and gas extraction must end,” the statement reads. “As the world focuses on climate change in advance of negotiations in Paris this winter, we urge you to demonstrate strong climate leadership by stopping new leasing of our publicly owned fossil fuels.”

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, sales of fossil fuels produced on U.S. public land in 2014 included 651 million barrels of crude oil, 3,551 billion cubic feet of natural gas, and 402 million short tons of coal.

The statement is signed by a coalition of green groups, including the Sierra Club, Greenpeace, 350.org, Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Action Network, and the Center for Biological Diversity, as well as numerous individuals. Notably, some other leading green groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Environmental Defense Fund, are not signatories, suggesting that not all environmental organizations are ready to push the president this far, especially in light of his recent intense focus on climate change, epitomized by the newly finalized Clean Power Plan.

Nonetheless, the statement is significant because it represents the latest stage in the development of a climate grassroots movement that has already brought us the Keystone XL pipeline battle.

“I think that this is the next frontier of climate advocacy,” said Michael Brune, the executive director of the Sierra Club, which backed the statement. “We know that we have made genuine progress in cutting carbon from cars and trucks and increasingly from the electric sector. And all of that is important, it’s necessary — and it won’t get the job done unless we begin to curtail development of fossil fuels, particularly in sensitive areas.”

The letter highlights that even as the Obama administration has focused on reducing warming-causing emissions through traditional regulatory means — most centrally, the EPA’s newly released Clean Power Plan — many environmental activists have pushed a still bolder strategy, and one that far more directly clashes with industry. They have been seeking to block fossil fuel projects or infrastructure, such as the Keystone XL pipeline, as well as calling for universities and other major institutions to divest from holding stock in major companies operating in that industry.

That’s the common theme that ties together the growing divestment movement, objection to the Keystone XL pipeline, protests against Shell’s plans to drill for oil in the Arctic, and now, the letter focused on federal fossil fuel leasing.

*[Powder River coal leasing prompts IG, GAO reviews]*

Hints of the theme were also apparent when, during President Obama’s recent Alaska trip to highlight climate change, many environmentalists faulted the president for the administration’s approval of Shell’s drilling plans in the Arctic. “His recent trip to Alaska, he didn’t even mention Arctic drilling,” said Ruth Breech, a campaigner with the Rainforest Action Network who helped organize the new statement. “This omission is just amazing. He’s up there talking about the climate crisis but he’s not talking about how he just approved and opened up a new carbon reserve.”

But in fact, the rift is of long standing — for a number of years, many environmental groups have simultaneously praised the president’s climate steps but also faulted his continual reliance on an “all of the above” energy strategy that supports the development of U.S. fossil fuel resources as well as renewables.

The groups claim that the president could, “with a stroke of a pen,” prevent as much as 450 billion tons of “potential” greenhouse gas emissions from the leasing of public land for fossil fuel development. The source of the figure is a recent report prepared for Friends of the Earth and the Center for Biological Diversity, which found that coal was the largest source of potential emissions, followed by oil shale.

“Whether it’s with Keystone XL, or an expansion of drilling in the Arctic, or leasing on public lands, we need to see some examples of the fact that the president understands that energy supply and demand are linked, and we have to start to develop a supply side strategy to address climate change,” said Brune.

*[Hillary Clinton breaks with Obama to oppose Arctic drilling]*

As a broader justification for this “supply side strategy,” green groups often cite research suggesting that a large proportion of current fossil fuel reserves would have to remain unburned if the world is to have a serious chance of keeping warming below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, a widely agreed upon international target.

Indeed, a study published last week found that if humans burn all available fossil fuel reserves, the emissions would be sufficient to entirely melt the gigantic ice covered continent of Antarctica, triggering over 100 feet of sea level rise.

How the Obama administration will respond to the increasingly loud “supply side” demands from environmental activists remains to be seen — but the push may also influence Democratic presidential candidates. Hillary Clinton, in a contrast with Obama, recently came out in opposition to Arctic drilling.

The Sierra Club’s Brune thinks the “supply side” approach is still only beginning to build momentum. “Give it time,” he said. “I guarantee our conversation in a year is going to be different than it is now.”

---

Chris Mooney reports on science and the environment.

---

## PROMOTED STORIES

Recommended by



Odd Aniamal Hybrids I Wish  
Existed For Real In Nature  
ShowMeTheScience.net



How the Change to Chip  
Credit Cards Will Impact  
Your SMB  
Square



China building 3rd airstrip  
on disputed South China  
Sea islets  
Nikkei Asian Review



All Eyes on the Forests: The  
New Norm of Zero-  
Deforestation  
Triple Pundit



Kelley Blue Book's Top  
Picks for 2015 Cars  
Kelley Blue Book



Cruise Ship Gets Rocked by  
Rogue Wave  
The Weather Channel on The Scene

# Thousands of Abandoned Mines on U.S. Lands Are an Environmental Time Bomb

The nation was horrified last month by a Colorado mine spill that sent a torrent of three million gallons of toxic, yellow sludge into the Animas River. The noxious materials traveled hundreds of miles downstream through Colorado, Utah and New Mexico.

The breach from the old Gold King Mine, which was abandoned in 1923, was triggered by a team of workers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – responsible for safeguarding the environment – that had been doing remediation at the site to prevent the release of toxic material.

## **Related: As States Battle New EPA Rules, Some Make Surprising Progress on Emissions**

The EPA has vowed to fully clean up the costly environmental disaster. But the troubling truth is that the Gold King Mine site is just one of literally thousands of contaminated sites on federal government land that could easily pose the next major environmental crisis.

A Government Accountability Office report released last week said that four major federal agencies responsible for much of the 700 million acres of federally owned land have identified thousands of contaminated or potentially contaminated sites. But those may be just the tip of the iceberg – and the government has no dependable way of assessing the full extent of the problem.

For instance, the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service estimates there are as many as 39,000 abandoned mines on its land, including roughly a fifth that

present some degree of risk to human health or the environment. The Department of the Interior, meanwhile, has identified 4,722 sites with confirmed contamination.

Yet Interior's Bureau of Land Management has identified 30,000 other abandoned mines that have not yet been assessed for contamination but likely will add to the growing list of high risk contaminated sites. And for good measure, the Department of Defense reported last year that it had 38,804 sites with contamination, while the Department of Energy has 16 similar contaminated sites in 11 states.

### **Related: How 'King Coal' Could Swing the 2016 Election**

"Many hazardous waste sites pose serious risks to human health and the environment, and their cleanups can require substantial time and expense," J. Alfred Gomez, GAO's director of Natural Resources and Environment, told a House energy and commerce subcommittee last week. "Abandoned mines from private mining activities on Interior and USDA lands also can present major environmental cleanup challenges and expenses for the federal government."

As *The Wall Street Journal* noted recently, the Colorado mine spill disaster focused renewed attention on the long-standing struggle of the federal Superfund program to clean up contaminated mining sites that pose serious risks to human health and the environment.

The Superfund program was created in the 1980s to clean up some of the country's most polluted sites, from mines and landfills to abandoned factories and plants. But the EPA has encountered many difficulties in running the program, ranging from inadequate funding to local opposition from residents who shunned the stigma of Superfund designation to the technical challenges of remediating legacy mining sites that often defy traditional cleanup measures.

The federal government's inventory system for tracking contaminated or potentially contaminated mines and sites is woefully inadequate. For example, after a site is listed on the docket, EPA requires that agency responsible to conduct a preliminary assessment within 18 months. However, the EPA can't force the agency to meet the deadline or pay a penalty.

#### **Related: Which States Get Hit Hardest by Obama's New Energy Rule?**

"As of February 2014, both Interior and USDA had conducted a preliminary assessment of the majority of their sites on EPA's docket," according to the GAO. "However, EPA, Interior, and USDA have differing information on the status of preliminary assessments for their docket sites."

The process of tracking and evaluating toxic or potentially hazardous sites not only is time consuming but expensive. For example:

- The Agriculture Department allocated more than \$22 million to environmental cleanup efforts and lists \$176 million of environmental liabilities at 100 sites, according to a January 20015 GAO report.
- The Interior Department in fiscal 2013 allocated about \$13 million for environmental cleanup efforts and listed \$192 million of environmental liabilities at 434 sites.
- The Defense Department spent almost \$30 billion from 1986 to 2008 for environmental cleanup and restoration at military installations, the GAO reported in July 2010. DOD reported \$58.6 billion of total environmental liabilities in its fiscal 2014 *Agency Financial Report*.
- The Department of Energy received an appropriation of almost \$5.9 billion in fiscal year 2015 to support cleanup activities. Last year, DOE estimated its total liability for environmental cleanup at almost \$300 billion.



September 14, 2015, 03:00 pm

# Rebuttal: The case for EPA's proposed methane regulations is just common sense

By Mark Brownstein

On the Congress blog last week, **Katie Brown argued against** the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed new rules to reduce the 7 million tons of methane emissions released by the oil and gas industry each year. Those companies could easily be rallying around solutions to a problem they've already agreed is manageable. But instead, Brown repeats flawed, misleading and all-too-common talking points that minimize the problem.

By resisting the commonsense rules, Brown and others are rejecting a great opportunity for industry to step up and embrace practical, cost effective measures that can create significant pollution reductions alongside strong economic growth.

First, know this: Methane emissions are a big problem that's only going to get bigger. Brown and many in industry point to small-sounding leak rates reported in scientific research, including studies spearheaded by EDF, to suggest emissions are low. But it's not the rate that matters, it's the volume. And that volume is huge – again, seven million tons each year according to EPA. That has the same 20-year climate impact as 160 coal-fired power plants. And it's enough wasted natural gas to supply over 5 million American homes.

And as Brown herself points out, research indicates those numbers could be even larger than we realize. For example, one of the latest studies in EDF's comprehensive series of peer-reviewed studies on oil and gas methane emissions shows previously unrecorded emissions from thousands of U.S. gathering facilities are eight times higher than estimates. Another series of studies in the Barnett Shale region found that overall emissions are roughly 50 percent higher than current estimates.

And if we don't take action, these emissions are projected to increase 25 percent in the next ten years.

It's clear we're facing a big problem, but there are cost-effective solutions readily available to address it, and they can go hand-in-hand with economic growth and job creation. A 2014 report by ICF international found that the oil and gas industry could cut methane emissions 40 percent with an investment of less than *one-third of one percent* of the current price of natural gas.

Brown ignores cost-effective opportunities to solve the problem, falling back on industry boilerplate that regulations will hurt business. But the evidence proves her wrong: Last year, Colorado became the first state to directly regulate methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. Since then, its oil and gas-producing areas had leading job growth. Weld County, the heart of Colorado's boom, had the highest job growth in the nation at 16 percent, and just down the road, Adams County ranked third in the nation in percentage employment gains. In Wyoming, which enacted similar rules, employment grew 5 percent last year.

These types of successful, commonsense regulations are not "superfluous" as Brown argues, but are necessary to provide consistent standards that get results and eliminate operational uncertainty.

Without these regulations, we know industry won't take comprehensive action to address the methane problem. One example is the EPA's voluntary reduction program, Natural Gas STAR, which has been around for 20 years, but has seen participation from less than one percent of companies in the industry in that time. While some leading companies have made commendable efforts, that hasn't solved the problem. And without the level playing field of sensible standards, it's not going to.

Brown's suggestion that methane from the oil and gas industry is not a significant problem dangerously mischaracterizes the magnitude of industry's methane emissions and the impact of those emissions on our climate. Squabbling about leak rates misses the point that we have a real opportunity to create standards that address methane pollution without hurting the economy. EPA's methane rules are a win-win proposition, and one that industry – and Brown – should embrace.

*Brownstein is a vice president in the Climate and Energy Program at the Environmental Defense Fund.*

The Hill 1625 K Street, NW Suite 900 Washington DC 20006 | 202-628-8500 tel | 202-628-8503 fax

The contents of this site are ©2015 Capitol Hill Publishing Corp., a subsidiary of News Communications, Inc.

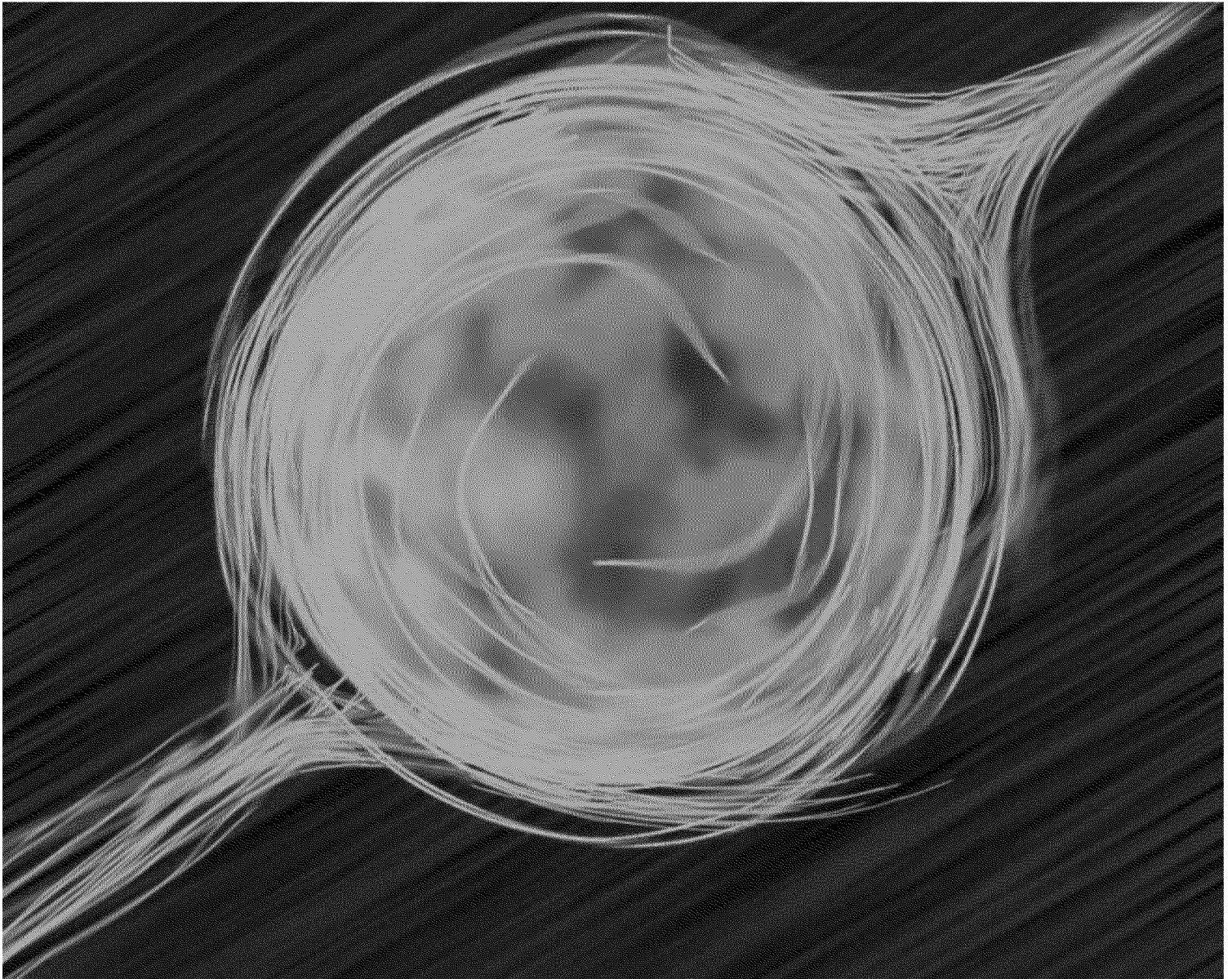




# Governor To Announce New Energy Plan, UNM Exhibit Highlights Police Brutality

By [KUNM NEWS \(/PEOPLE/KUNM-NEWS\)](#) • 23 HOURS AGO

[Twitter \(http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fp2bktag&text=Governor%20To%20Announce%20New%20Energy%20Plan%20UNM%20Exhibit%20Highlights%20Police%20Brutality\)](http://twitter.com/intent/tweet?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.tinyurl.com%2Fp2bktag&text=Governor%20To%20Announce%20New%20Energy%20Plan%20UNM%20Exhibit%20Highlights%20Police%20Brutality)



([http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/kunm/files/styles/x\\_large/public/201509/energy\\_coolcubixviaFlickr.jpg](http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/kunm/files/styles/x_large/public/201509/energy_coolcubixviaFlickr.jpg))

COOL CUBIX VIA FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSE



## **Gov. Martinez To Unveil New State Energy Plan – *Associated Press***

Gov. Susana Martinez is expected to unveil a new energy policy as industry experts gather in southeastern New Mexico for an annual summit.

The governor's office says the new policy will call for an all-of-the-above approach, not unlike the prescription being pushed at the federal level.

The plan has been more than a year in the making. Several listening sessions were held around the state and more than 400 people participated.

State officials say the goals in promoting all energy sources include job creation and the diversification of a key sector of New Mexico's economy.

Aside from the governor, speakers at Monday's meeting in Carlsbad include T. Boone Pickens, a Texas billionaire who made much of his fortune in oil but has since become an advocate for alternative energy.

## **New Mexico Drive Encourages Steps To Promote Breastfeeding – *The Associated Press***

A new media campaign being launched in New Mexico by a coalition that promotes breastfeeding encourages hospitals to adopt an array of practices for maternity and infant care.

The campaign includes billboards and bus signs encouraging people to find out whether hospitals are taking steps hospitals to be equipped to encourage breastfeeding from the moment of birth.

The task force says eight of New Mexico's 30 hospitals have designations associated with encouraging breastfeeding.

## **Reported Suicide Attempts Among New Mexico Teenagers Drop – *The Associated Press***

The number of New Mexico teenagers who reported attempting suicide in 2013 has decreased by more than a third from a decade earlier, but the rate of young people in the state who take their own lives still remains above the national average.

The Albuquerque Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1J7KlvV>) a survey from the state Department of Health found that 9.4 percent of high school students reported attempting suicide in 2013, down from 14.5 percent in 2003.

State officials say the drop can be attributed to suicide-prevention programs, which have been implemented on school campuses statewide.

New Mexico's suicide rate among people ages 15 to 24 still exceeds the national average, ranking seventh highest among the states.

The state's suicide-prevention program received about \$1 million in funding last year.

### **UNM Art Exhibit Explores Police, Gun Violence – *The Associated Press***

The University of New Mexico is hosting a debated art show meant to highlight police brutality and gun violence.

KRQE-TV reports (<http://bit.ly/1LvVfn7>) that the Necessary Force: Art in the Police State will run until Dec. 12. The exhibit includes portraits from events during the civil rights movement and an overturned police cruiser playing scanner chatter from unrest in cities like Ferguson, Missouri.

UNM College of Fine Arts Dean Kymberly Pinder says the show is not meant to be anti-police, but instead anti-brutality and anti-gun violence.

The artists featured in the exhibit are both from the U.S. and abroad and are of varying ages, bringing a wide range of perspectives to the artwork.

UNM officials say the art show does not represent any opinion held by the university.

### **Bio-Fuel Firm Causes Grease Spill Into Santa Fe River – *The Associated Press***

City Officials say a company that recycles grease and food waste for restaurants has left a mess in the Santa Fe River.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports (<http://bit.ly/1Qyxf6r>) that city crews pumped out cooking oil Saturday evening that spilled into the river earlier in the day, turning a portion of the dry riverbed orange.

Restaurant owner Tim Eckre says workers with Valley Proteins, which retrieves grease from his business once a month, dropped a barrel of used canola oil around 5 a.m.

City water conservation workers say the workers used a hose to wash the oil into a storm drain instead of sopping it up.

Officials say that drain leads to the river.

No one at the Winchester, Virginia-based company's headquarters was immediately available Sunday to comment.

**PNM Pushes Back At Environmental Group Over Coal Plant Case – Santa Fe New Mexican, Associated Press**

Public Service Company of New Mexico is pushing back at environmentalists trying to disqualify state regulators from voting on plans for a coal-fired power plant that provides electricity around the Southwest.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports ([http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local\\_news/pnm-blasts-group-s-request-to-bump-regulators-from-coal/article\\_0db0cd7c-125d-5274-8a7f-3385d5c4c728.html](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/pnm-blasts-group-s-request-to-bump-regulators-from-coal/article_0db0cd7c-125d-5274-8a7f-3385d5c4c728.html)) that the utility issued a formal response Friday to New Energy Economy's motions that four Public Regulation Commission members recuse themselves from voting.

In the 32-page document, PNM attorney Benjamin Phillips blasts the group's allegations that regulators are too cozy with utility executives.

PNM is proposing to shutter two coal-fired units at the San Juan Generating Station and retrofit the remaining two to meet new Environmental Protection Agency standards.

New Energy, which seeks to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, has opposed the plan.

Two commissioners said Thursday they plan to vote.

**New Mexico AG Requests Further Injunction On Horse Slaughter – Albuquerque Journal, Associated Press**

The New Mexico attorney general is asking a state district judge to take further measures to prevent horse slaughtering in Roswell.

The Albuquerque Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1KM2CvB>) that the AG is asking the judge to expand an injunction against a horse slaughter operation in the city to prevent another firm from starting one.

A. Blair Dunn, the lawyer for Valley Meat Co., says federal action has blocked slaughtering horses and the organization doesn't intend to do so in Roswell. He called the AG's request harassment.

The AG sued Valley Meat in 2013 and a preliminary injunction prevents the plant from operating. The next hearing in the lawsuit is scheduled for Sept. 22.

The company has refused to provide information to the AG, saying the lawsuit is moot because it is not planning horse slaughter.

## **Bio-Fuel Firm Causes Grease Spill Into Santa Fe River – *Santa Fe New Mexican***

City officials say a company that recycles grease and food waste for restaurants has left a mess in the Santa Fe River.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reports (<http://bit.ly/1Qyxf6r>) that city crews pumped out cooking oil Saturday evening that spilled into the river earlier in the day, turning a portion of the dry riverbed orange.

Restaurant owner Tim Eckre says workers with Valley Proteins, which retrieves grease from his business once a month, dropped a barrel of used canola oil around 5 a.m.

City water conservation workers say the workers used a hose to wash the oil into a storm drain instead of sopping it up.

Officials say that drain leads to the river.

No one at the Winchester, Virginia-based company's headquarters was immediately available Sunday to comment.

## **UNM To Divide \$100 Million Bond Issue Over 2 Years – *Albuquerque Journal, Associated Press***

The University of New Mexico will split a planned \$100 million bond issue that will fund expansions to campus facilities over the next two years.

The Albuquerque Journal reports (<http://www.abqjournal.com/643054/news/unm-regents-split-bonds.html>) that the UNM Board of Regents approved the divvying Friday, with the first \$55 million in bonds to be sold in January and the second \$45 million to be sold a year later.

School officials say the first bond will pay for the first phase of renovation for the Johnson Center, new buildings for the Anderson School of Management and renovations of Smith Plaza.

The second one will go toward a new physics and astronomy facility and a child care program.

Student government leaders say the majority of students support the Johnson Center project despite a likely rise in student fees.

## **AP Exclusive: After Spill, Work Suspended At 10 Mine Sites – *By Matthew Brown And Dan Elliott, Associated Press***

Federal officials suspended site investigations and some cleanup work at 10 polluted mining complexes because of conditions similar to those blamed in a massive wastewater blowout from an inactive Colorado goldmine.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency projects include three sites in California, four in Colorado, two in Montana and one in Missouri.

A stop-work order affecting the sites was issued last month but officials did not disclose specifics. Details were provided following repeated requests from The Associated Press.

EPA Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus says the suspended sites have the potential for contaminated water to build up inside mine workings.

That would set the stage for a blowout such as in Colorado, where an EPA team triggered a 3-million-gallon release of toxic sludge while doing excavation work on a mine near Silverton. That impact rivers in three states, including New Mexico.

TAGS: [UPDATE \(/TERM/UPDATE\)](#)

0 Comments

KUNM

Login

Share

Sort by Best



[EEO Public File \(http://kunm.org/eeo-public-file\)](#)

[CPB Compliance \(http://kunm.org/cpb-compliance-document\)](#)

[Privacy Policy \(http://kunm.org/kunm-privacy-policy\)](#)

# Tangipahoa Council told they will get to review remediation proposal of shredded tires at next meeting

## Tangipahoa Parish remediation plan nearly complete

**By Vic Couvillion**

*Special to The Advocate*

AMITE — The Tangipahoa Parish Council learned Monday that it should be able to review at its Sept. 28 meeting a remediation plan to correct a state complaint about the misuse and excessive storage of shredded tire material at the parish landfill near Independence.

Harold Leggett, director of regulatory affairs for PPM Consultants of Baton Rouge, an environmental science and engineering firm, said the team managing the response to the state Department of Environmental Quality's complaint is continuing to gather information, but the plan will be ready by the council's next meeting.

In June, DEQ filed a formal complaint against Tangipahoa Parish over the shredded tire material and how it was being used in the construction of a firing range at the landfill. The range has been under construction for a number of years and remains unfinished. DEQ also informed the parish that millions of pounds of the tire material was being stored at the landfill, an amount not allowed under a permit granted to the landfill to accept the shredded tires.

DEQ stated that if the parish did not come under compliance it could be fined thousands of dollars a day for every day that the landfill was noncompliant.

Councilman Carlo Bruno asked Leggett if the council would be given an opportunity to review the parish's response to DEQ.

"That's how we got in this mess in the first place — by not being told about the shredded tire material," Bruno said.

Leggett agreed and said that the response would be given to members of the council.

Council President David Vial said that the matter would be discussed in executive session at the Sept. 28 meeting.

Leggett said after the meeting that the formal proposal to DEQ will include plans to handle the shredded tires.

Leggett said that the possibility exists that the shredded material could be put to some use.

“There are legitimate uses for the shredded tires,” he said.

Leggett said that the response to DEQ would also contain a plan for better record-keeping and accountability at the landfill.

“We are working to show DEQ that in the future the landfill will be managed even better than what it is now,” he said.

Leggett said he believes the parish may be able to avoid having to pay penalties on alleged misuse of the shredded tires.

---

Copyright © 2015, Capital City Press LLC • 7290 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810 • All Rights Reserved



<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Chemical-plant-on-shutdown-after-leak-6503742.php>

## Chemical plant on shutdown after leak

Dylan Baddour, Houston Chronicle Published 5:30 pm, Monday, September 14, 2015

The Flint Hills chemical plant in southeastern Houston is in the process of a controlled shutdown while crews work to repair a leak, a company spokesperson said.

An unknown amount of gaseous propylene leaked from the facility. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, propylene is not considered toxic to people and is used in food products.

The Houston Fire Department's active incidents webpage showed 11 HFD units responded to the plant, on Jordan Street near the La Porte Freeway, around noon Monday. An HFD spokesman said Flint Hills was orchestrating the response while the fire department offered support.

A company spokesperson said the cause of the leak was under investigation.

© 2015 Hearst Communications, Inc.





# GET MONISTAT. STAT.

CLICK TO SAVE \$3



[Return to Top](#)

**About** | [Our Company](#) [Careers](#) [Advertise with Us](#) [Ad Choices](#) [Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy Policy](#)  
[Your California Privacy Rights](#)

**Contact** | [Customer Service](#) [Newsroom Contacts](#)

**Connect** | [Email Newsletter](#) [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Pinterest](#) [Google](#) [Instagram](#)

**Subscribe** | [iPad app](#) [HoustonChronicle.com](#) [eEdition Demo](#) [Today's eEdition](#)

© Copyright 2015 Hearst Newspapers, LLC